

to the vibrancy of our communities. These entrepreneurs are fundamental to our economy. Through the opportunities offered by the men and women who own and operate our Nation's 25.5 million small businesses, many of our citizens are able to pursue their dreams of a better life.

Federal, State, and local governments can help our small business owners by creating an environment in which the American spirit flourishes, an environment that promotes innovation, risk-taking, and equal opportunity. My Administration is working for lower taxes, reasonable regulations, and a reduction of tariffs and other barriers to free trade that will increase the competitive strength of our small business sector. Education reforms also will ensure that our young people are prepared to enter the global marketplace and small businesses will have the needed pool of talent.

Many of America's entrepreneurs risk everything to make their businesses successful. They are leaders of innovation, and their efforts create a wellspring of new technology, new products, and improved business processes. One of my priorities as President is to encourage that entrepreneurial spirit, and to see that it encompasses all Americans. To that end, we have instituted the New Freedom Initiative, which includes a component to help small businesses better serve customers with disabilities and to hire more people with disabilities. Also, my Administration supports the Drug Free Workplace Program, to help small businesses develop employee education programs and company drug policies. These are examples of our commitment to the ideal that the role of our Government is not to create business barriers, but to help our citizens overcome them.

America's small business owners and their employees represent more than half of the private workforce. These entrepreneurs, who create more than 75 percent of the net new jobs nationwide and generate more than 50 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product, and the employees who work in small businesses, deserve our thanks. We salute them by observing Small Business Week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by

the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 6 through 12, 2001, as Small Business Week. I urge all Americans to join in observing this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 8, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 9.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 28

In the afternoon, the President returned from Crawford, TX, to Washington, DC.

April 30

The President had separate telephone conversations with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany, President Jacques Chirac of France, Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada, Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom, and NATO Secretary General George Robertson.

The President announced his intention to nominate Clark T. Randt, Jr., to be Ambassador to China.

May 1

The President announced his intention to nominate Alexander R. Vershbow to be Ambassador to Russia.

The President announced his intention to nominate James Laurence Connaughton to

be a member of the Council on Environmental Quality. Upon confirmation, he will be designated Chairman.

The President announced his intention to nominate John W. Gillis to be Director of the Office of Victims of Crime.

May 2

In the afternoon, the President met with members of the RespecTeen National Youth Forum at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

The President announced his intention to nominate Hans H. Hertell to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

The President declared a disaster in Iowa and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on April 8 and continuing.

May 3

In the morning, the President met separately with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel, President Vicente Fox of Mexico, and Foreign Minister Josenka Fischer of Germany in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edmund James Hull to be Ambassador to Yemen.

The White House announced that the President invited President Vicente Fox of Mexico to the White House for a state visit on September 5–7.

May 4

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald Weiser to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic.

The President announced his intention to nominate Matt Fong to be Under Secretary of the Army.

to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 30

Kathleen Q. Abernathy, of Maryland, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of 5 years from July 1, 2000, vice Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth.

Othoniel Armendariz, of Texas, to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of 5 years expiring July 1, 2005, vice Donald S. Wasserman, term expired.

Eric M. Bost, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, vice Shirley Robinson Watkins, resigned.

Michael Chertoff, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice James K. Robinson.

Kathleen B. Cooper, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs, vice Robert J. Shapiro, resigned.

David Garman, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy), vice Dan Reichter, resigned.

John W. Gillis, of California, to be Director of the Office for Victims of Crime, vice Kathryn M. Turman, resigned.

James Gurule, of Michigan, to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement, vice James E. Johnson, resigned.

William T. Hawks, of Mississippi, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, vice Islam A. Siddiqui.

Robin L. Higgins, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs, vice Robert M. Walker, resigned.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations